CURIOUS THINGS SEEN IN TOUR OF HAWAIIAN ISLANDS BY ABLE WORLD-TRAVELED CRITIC OF SAN FRANCISCO

Preponderance of Orientals Is Pointed Out As a Very Strange Social Problem

(The following article from the pen of George Hamlin Fitch, a recent visitor to Hawaii who is a keen observer and fluent writer, occupies an entire page in the San Francisco Chronicle of July 26, illustrated with reproductions of fine photographs by R. W. Perkins of Honolulu. Mr. Fitch has earned a world-wide reputation in the literary field from his position as literary editor of the Chronicle and through his personal literary efforts—"Comfort Found in Good Old Books and the Critic Series of Travel in the Orient and Occident.")

Even a good descriptive writer may well shrink from attempting to give a picture of Honolulu and the Hawaiian Islands. The city and the islands differ radically from the Orient, because here the early missionaries from Boston put the American stamp on everything and the trade winds transform what would be intolerable humid heat into an earthly paradise for those who do not feel partial to hard labor. In a word, the Hawaiian Islands are a lotus eater's land, where it is always afternoon and where the call to strenuous work is seldom heard. They are an ideal place for a vacation, especially in the winter months, when ice and snow hold fast most of the United States. Even to a Californian the climate is singularly equable, as the mercury seldom drops lower than 55 degrees and in mid-summer it rarely climbs above 85 degrees. To one used to a harsher climate, this equable temperature, with its soft balmy winds, seems very enervating. Walking in the middle of the day produces profuse perspiration and energy is much relaxed. It is a positive effort to walk more than a block or two, and mental work is not pleasant. After one is acclimated, however, the blood becomes thinner, and old residents of Honolulu declare that they can do nearly as much work as on the mainland.

A Swarm of Orientals.

Thoroughly Americanized as they are, these islands present a variety of races that make their future a problem for any thoughtful observer. While the Hawaiians are a rapidly dying race the Japanese have leaped into the foremost place in numbers and have seized all the small manufactures and petty trades and industries that were once controlled by the natives. With thousands of Chinese, these two races have orientalized many quarters of Honolulu, while they give a peculiar stamp to many of the small towns throughout the islands. Together they form 60 per cent of the population. These orientals retain their native dress and customs far more than they do in California. In fact, in passing through many of the villages on the big sugar and pineapple plantations, the visitor is reminded of the country towns in Japan.

It is the exception in Hawaii when one today meets a native Hawaiian of pure blood. The best cross is that between the Hawaiian and the Chinese, the Oriental blood giving that business ability which the native lacks. Next to this comes the Japanese and Hawaiian, a blend that produces many beautiful girls. The energy of the white man is greatly impaired by union with the Hawaiian. With this blending of races is a complete breaking down of the usual racial lines. In California the Japanese have no social standing, and a white girl who marries a Japanese is ostracized. In Hawaii the Japanese and Chinese when crossed with the Hawaiian, has as good a social position as the whites.

No Racial Prejudices.

This extraordinary cosmopolitanism was shown very clearly at an entertainment given in Honolulu the night before I sailed for home. It was a variety performance for the benefit of charity, held on the roof garden of the Alexander Young Hotel, and all Honolulu society was out in force. For an hour in the hotel lobby I watched the well dressed crowd going up in the elevator. Girls of great beauty with complexions like rare porcelain had the slant eyes of the Mongolian; others had almond eyes and the dusky skin of their mothers; others were dark as southern negroes, with thick lips and bold rugged features—representatives of the native race which is fast disappearing. And all these people of various races mingled in perfect amity and good will.

Only the Negro Not Represented

In reading the Honolulu newspapers one finds in almost every issue reports of social events in which the lists of guests include Chinese, Japanese, and Hawaiian names. There is no discrimination in regard to color or nationality, save that the negro is not represented. The Orientals who swarmed into the islands until they were excluded by special laws, have adopted many American customs but they have retained far more of their native life than their countrymen in California. One of the prettiest sights in Honolulu is that of a clear-skinned, glossy-haired Japanese woman dressed in full native garb, with the brilliantly colored obi at the back, which shows that she is a married woman. Next may pass a dainty Chinese girl in plum or salmon colored silk coat and short trousers, with American shoes, her arms heavy with fine jade bangles, while she is followed by a dusky Hawaiian, a head taller than her oriental sisters, robed in the holoku, or lose Mother Hubbard dress, which the missionaries recommended as a substitute for the more pprimitive grass girdle and necklaces that once formed the street costume of the native belle. The young Chinese and Japanese boys seem to have discarded completely their native dress. They wear the costume of the American college boy and they dress with much taste. The older men cling to the dress of their country, but with many innovations borrowed from America.

Novel Social Problem.

To a Californian it seems strange to find Japanese and Chinese members in the Young Men's Christian Association and to find these two races represented in the cashier's department of the big hotels and many large corporations, churches and charitable associations. Hard and fast racial lines are drawn in California and the Oriental cannot overstep them no matter how great his wealth or how good his education and breeding. But here in these Hawaiian islands is found a novel problem, the solution of which may involve many difficulties. Here is a mixture of many races, in which those of pure blood are in the minority. What will be the result of this novel meeting of all races on a plane of perfect equality? Some of the ablest men of the islands have acknowledged that the working out of this social problem means much for the future of the islands as well as for the cause of peace and Christianity.

It is curious to observe the absolute breaking down of all race prejudice as seen on the street cars and at all public places and entertainments. The man who is used to the Jim Crow cars for colored people in all our southern cities will be startled in Honolulu to see a dusky Hawaiian woman, with her bundles of houshold purchases, drop down into the seat beside him on any crowded street car of Honolulu, or a Japanese or Chinese share his seat with no feeling that he is an intruder. It is this absolute assumption of social equality by what we have come to regard inferior races that gives a shock to the American visitor to Hawaii. But after the first surprise one is apt to admire this new social equality, which takes no count of race or creed or training, of color of skin or setting of the eyes.

Lotus Eaters' Land.

The absence of all extremes of heat and cold makes Hawaii a lotus eaters' land. Here it seems always afternoon. Americans who have become acclimated declare that they can work with the same vim as in their own country, but the visitor who feels his energy sapped by the humid heat is very doubtful about these claims. While Hawaii is not within the tropics its climate is tropical, as well as its vegetation. Here flourish the cocoanut, the banana, the breadfruit, the papaia and many other fruits of the tropics; but the nights are cool, and during the greater part of the year the heat of the sun is tempered by the strong trade winds which sweep over the islands. The mild and equable air is due largely to this wide sweep of over 2000 miles of ocean all about the islands. There are no sudden changes in temperature; an overcoat is unnecessary even at night; the soft wind that blows in the evening is robbed of all harshness by its long course over the balmy sea. But, as Lafcadio Hearn said of the West Indies, these islands are not adapted to mental work. The man who attempts to do the same strenuous tasks as on the mainland is liable to come to grief.

Two Great Sights in Honolulu.

The two most wonderful sights in Honolulu are the work of man. These are the Aquarium and the Bishop Museum. The first belongs to the city and, because of the extraordinary variety and coloring of the fishes, it surpasses in interest the great Aquarium at Naples. The other was founded by Charles Reed Bishop, a wealthy merchant in Honolulu, in memory of his wife, the Princess Pauahi, who was the great-granddaughter of the ruling chief at the time of Captain Cook's visit and a direct descendant of Kamehameha the great. The museum is housed in a fine stone building in the center of Kamehameha school grounds at Kalihi, a suburb of Honolulu.

The Aquarium is located near the famous Waikiki beach and is easily reached by a car ride of about 20 minutes. The building is unpretentious and the tanks are not arranged with the art shown in the Naples aquarium. What impresses the visitor almost at the outset is the wonderful variety of the fishes and their equally wonderful coloring. To describe them as they are lays one open to the charge of exaggeration. Not only are the fish of fiery red, deep blue, light blue, orange and other primary colors, but these colors are blended in many variations of stripes and other eccentric markings. Then, too, scores of these fish are marked by queer patches of vivid colors apparently set into the body of the fish. Others have elongated noses or long streamers of white or yellow that follow them like a pennant.

The Bishop Museum.

The Bishop Museum can be seen very fairly in two and a half hours, although a second visit will be found profitable. The location of the building is singularly fine. From its windows one may look out upon a noble stretch of territory. Mrs. Bishop, after a life of usefulness to her people, left her entire estate to found schools for young Hawaiians. Amid a fine park at Kalihi are grouped the buildings of the Kamehameha school, where a large number of young boys and girls are educated in the ordinary English branches in manual training. The original museum consisted of an entrance hall and three rooms; to this have been added two wings, one for Hawaiian curios and one for Polynesian. Besides its unique collection of Hawaiian articles that serve to illustrate the old life of the people, the museum is the richest in the world in Polynesian exhibits. Much of the pleasure and profit which the tourist gains from the museum is due to the fine arrangement of the exhibits and the admirable

Bishop Museum Credited With the Finest Polynesian Collection in the World

casts of Hawaiians made by the director, Dr. William T. Brigham, who has been in charge of the institution since its foundation. Dr. Brigham is well known to scientists for his works on the volcanoes of Hawaii.

Though nearly 80 years of age, he is full of energy, and if you are fortunate enough to carry a letter of introduction to him he will not only show you all the treasures of the museum, but he will give you a mass of information about early Hawaii and its people which he has gathered during his 50 years of residence on the islands. The doctor is violently anti-Japanese, and he is not partial to the native Hawaiian, as he declares little good can be expected of a race whose language has no words for virtue, honor or home.

Nucleus of Collection.

The nucleus of the museum was the large and priceless collection of mats, calabashes, feather work, tapa and relics that were bequeathed by Mrs. Bishop as the last of the royal line of the Kamehamehas. To these have been added many treasures given by the late Queen Emma and fine collections of 9000 species of shells, of Hawaiian plants, birds and insects and rich exhibits of ethnological specimens not only from Hawaii, but from all the principal islands of Polynesia. The rare treasures of the museum are in the Kahili room. These are Kahilis or large feather standards used at funerals of royalty, and the famous robe of the first Kamehameha, made entirely of feathers from the orange and black mamo bird, which is said to be valued at a million dollars. These birds, as well as the yellow and black oo, the scarlet liwi and others, were protected by stringent decrees, and the feathers were used exclusively in the making of these royal cloaks and standards. The rich yellow of the mamo cloak is contrasted with the more common cloaks of the oo bird. The British museum has a smaller mamo cloak than this, which was given to Queen Victoria.

Old Hawaiian Treasures.

The Hawaiian hall is rich in articles that illustrate the early life of the people of the islands. Dr. Brigham devised the ingenious plan of taking plaster casts of living Hawaiians who were good types of their race. Then from these casts were made the figures that now represent the worship and the industries of the people. Thus, for instance, we have natives pounding the taro to make poi, the national dish, and others cutting from stone the pounders used in this work. Others are shown spinning and weaving and making weapons and fishing tackle. One of the most striking groups is that of a kahuna, ormedicine man, praying before a big calabash, in order to draw down a curse upon his enemy. So superstitious are the natives that even in these days if a man learns that a kahuna is praying for his death he takes leave of his friends, settles his estate, turns his face to the wall and gives up the ghost.

Among the valuable specimens in this room is a unique collection of kapa, or tapa cloth, made from vegetable fibre. Of all the islanders of the Pacific, these Hawaiians made the finest tapa, and Dr. Brigham has gathered here wonderful specimens of their skill. Most of this cloth was made from the paper mulberry, a shrub that was cultivated by all Polynesians. The bark from the lower branches of these trees was stripped off, dried and then laboriously beaten, and the fibre welded together into sheets. The pattern carved on the beater gave the figure to the tapa cloth, and the coloring was done by vegetable dyes. The museum contains also many fine specimens of the old basket work, which has now become extinct. The collection of hooks, nets and other fishing implements is the most complete in the world. The Kamehameha rulers were all noted fishermen, and their finest implements were handed down to Mrs. Bishop. It is a curious commentary on the decadence of the modern Hawaiian that he has permitted the Japanese to monopolize fishing for the markets of the islands.

Grass House for Heathen Temple.

Perhaps the most interesting exhibits in the Hawaiian hall are the large central cases, one containing an ancient grass house and the others a replica of an ancient sacrificial temple. The grass houses have well-nigh disappeared from the islands, although over 30 years ago they were universal in the more remote parts of the islands. This house was found in Kauai, the Garden Island, and it was evidently made by skilled workmen. The frame is of timber, with strong rafters, the whole being bound together by tough braid and thatched with peli grass. The only opening usually provided was the door, although sometimes a small hole was made in one gable. The door of plank was seldom over three feet high. A small circle of stones on the ground floor provided a fireplace, and at one end this floor was raised slightly and, covered with fine mats, served as the family bed. There was no furniture, as the Hawaiian squats on his haunches when working or taking his food. These houses were wholesome when new, but they soon became musty and vermin-infested, and the ventilation was poor.

Mother's Curse That Worked.

The model of a temple was made to scale from an old temple under Dr. Brigham's directions. The whole place was inclosed by a high stone wall and at one end was the raised platform on which human sacrifices were made. A peculiar incident which occurred when the roof of this hall was being repaired. A young native carpenter had so angered his mother that she cursed him in the name of the ancient gods. He laughed at her threats and went to his day's work. While he was helping to put a large skylight frame in place, one of the girders onwhich he was standing gave way. He fell about 25 feet, striking on the glass frame of the temple exhibit and shattering the plate glass, which mangled him terribly. His bleeding body fell directly in front of the altar of human sacrifices. The native workmen told the story, and the mother rejoiced that her curse had borne fruit. When they told her of the manner of her son's death she shouted: "You see now how great is my influence with the gods!" On the strength of this she became a kahuna and derived a good revenue from superstitious natives who paid her to ward off evil from them or to bring down misfortune on their enemies.

The Polynesian hall is so full of noteworthy exhibits that only a few of the more striking can be named. The finest woodwork in war clubs, paddles and canoes is that of the Maoris of New Zealand. Here are many fine specimens, elaborately carved. Among the Polynesians the cannibals are the best workmen in all kinds of decorative work. Among the best paddles, spears, war clubs and canoes are those made by the natives of the Solomon, Marquesas and Fiji Islands. One of the finest things is a large wooden bowl from the Solomon Islands in which human flesh was cooked. The highly polished dark wood is finely inlaid with intricate patterns in pearl shell, and at each end is a baboon-like figure. The human flesh, known as "long pig," was in an address to the convention of the cooked by dropping hot stones into the water that filled the dish. A smaller bowl, more finely finished than the other, was used to serve human food to a chief. Among other curios are models of canoes from the Marshall Islands. These islanders were the best navigators of the Pacific, having charts and the compass, made out of bamboo. This Polynesian hall is very rich in exhibits from each island and the visitor will be impressed with the variety of the weapons and paddles, each island having a type of its own.

Dr. Brigham has gathered specimens of idols from the various islands, some of them revealing obscene features which make them resemble the totem poles of the Alaskan natives. The collection is so rich that one may spend hours in this Polynesian hall. The museum is noteworthy for its independence of outside aid. Thus Dr. Brigham has his own taxidermist with a large shop where all specimens are mounted. A carpenter shop where cases are made and even models of fish and animals; a printing office where catalogues and reports are gotten out and all labels are printed. In fact, take it all in all, it is one of the great museums of the world and with its large revenue it is sure to increase in richness with every year.

FOREIGN MISSIONS AID TO SOCIETY, SAYS MISSIONARY

[By Latest Mail]

CHICAGO.—Society owes its existence to foreign missionary enterprises, Dr. William A. Brown, former missionary to the Philippines, declared in an address to the convention of the International Sunday School Association.

"We commonly think missions are good for the heathen, but not intended for Americans," said the speaker, "on the ground that missions are meant primarially for the heathen alone. But on that assumption the most needy field is America, where there are fewer religious people than in India. A child born in India is sure to be brought up more in harmony with their peculiar religious belief than in richly favored America."

Rev. H. Kawasumi, secretary of the National Sunday School Association of Japan, and Rev. T. Ukai, a director of that association, read greetings from Count Okuma, Prime Minister of Japan; Baron Sakatani, Mayor of Tokio; K. Nakano, president of the Chamber of Commerce of Tokio.

The next world's Sunday school convention will be held in Tokio in 1916, and the Japanese are here getting pointers.

The need of a more humanitarian viewpoint of life was urged upon some Christian workers by Fred B. Smith of New York, who addressed the adult conference. "If we would pay more attention to the cans in the alley than to the chimes in the church belfry we would get better results."

Henry H. Harris, former president of the Banker's Association, died of appoplexy at Champaign, Ill.